

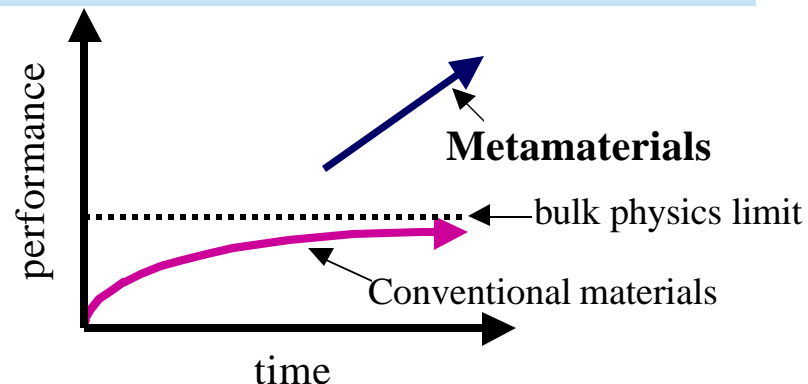
Meta-Materials

“Metamaterials” are engineered (nano) composites that exhibit superior properties that are not found in nature and not observed in the constituent materials.

Metamaterials: Changing the design paradigm

Problem

The ultimate performance of conventional bulk materials is limited by physics.

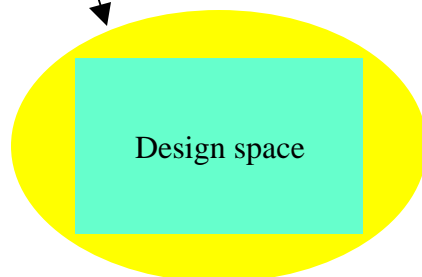


Solution

Metamaterials: New physics = enhanced performance

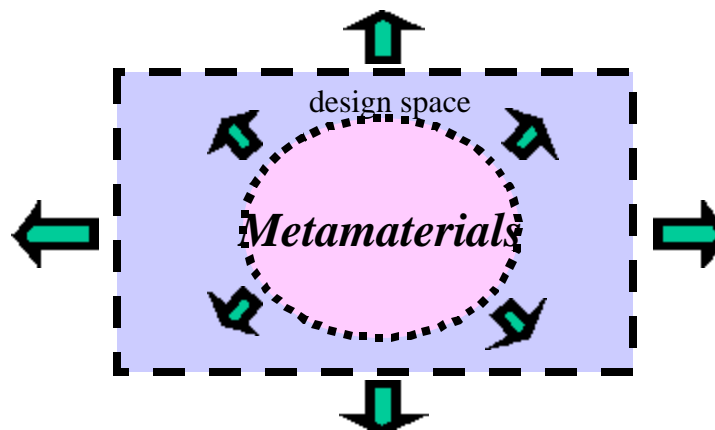
Design Constraints

Materials' limitations



METAMATERIALS

Design Freedom

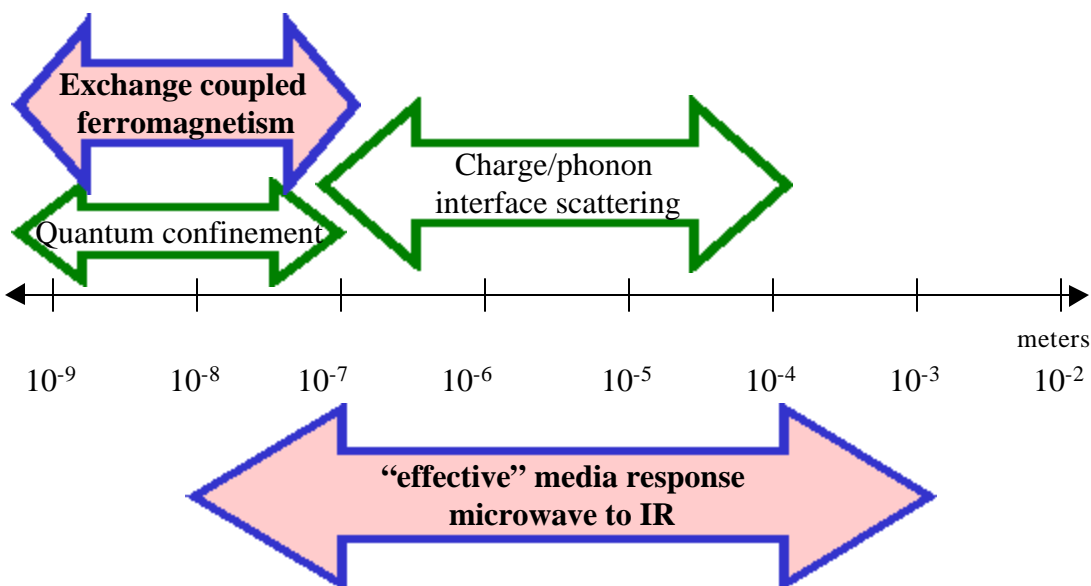


Why Metamaterials?

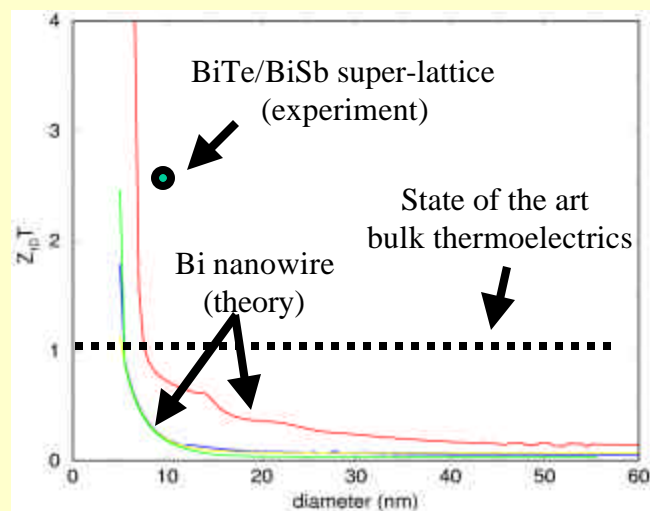
... because the physics at “small” scales is different, interesting, and in many cases, better from a performance perspective

METAMATERIALS OBJECTIVE

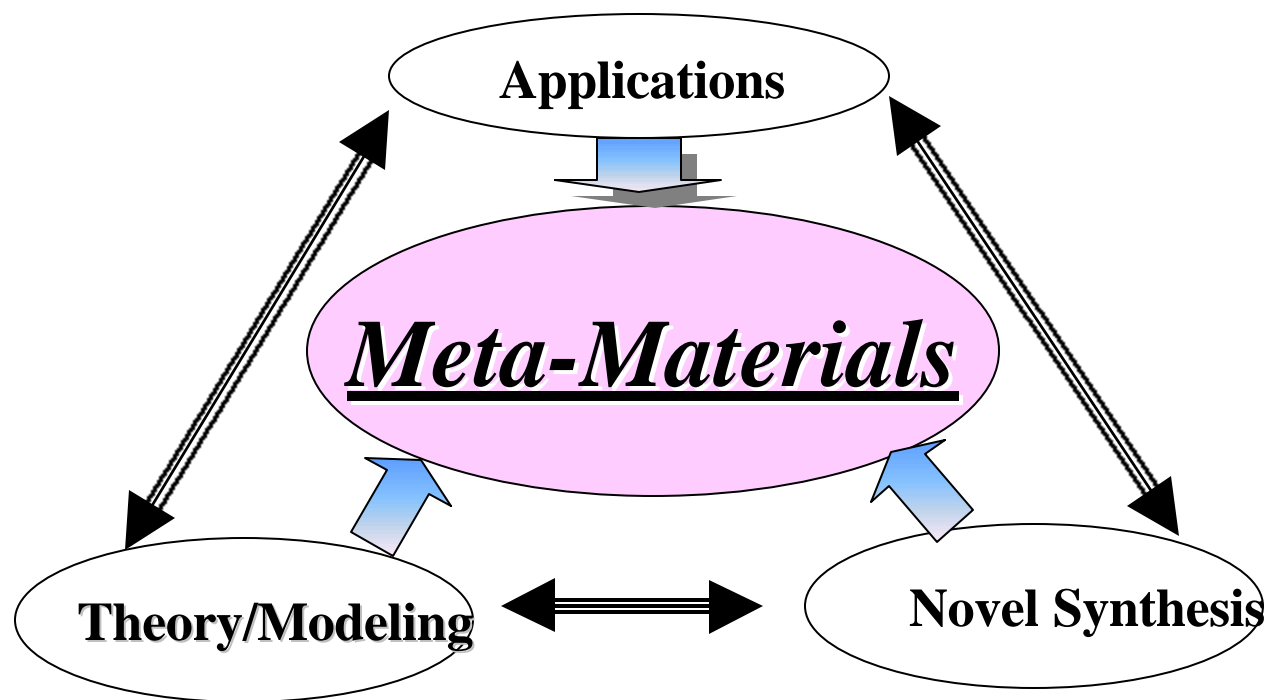
Preserve the superior properties of low dimensional systems in new bulk materials constructed from unit cell building blocks that are engineered to exploit “small” scale physics



Example: Thermoelectric figure of merit ($ZT = S^2T/\rho k$)



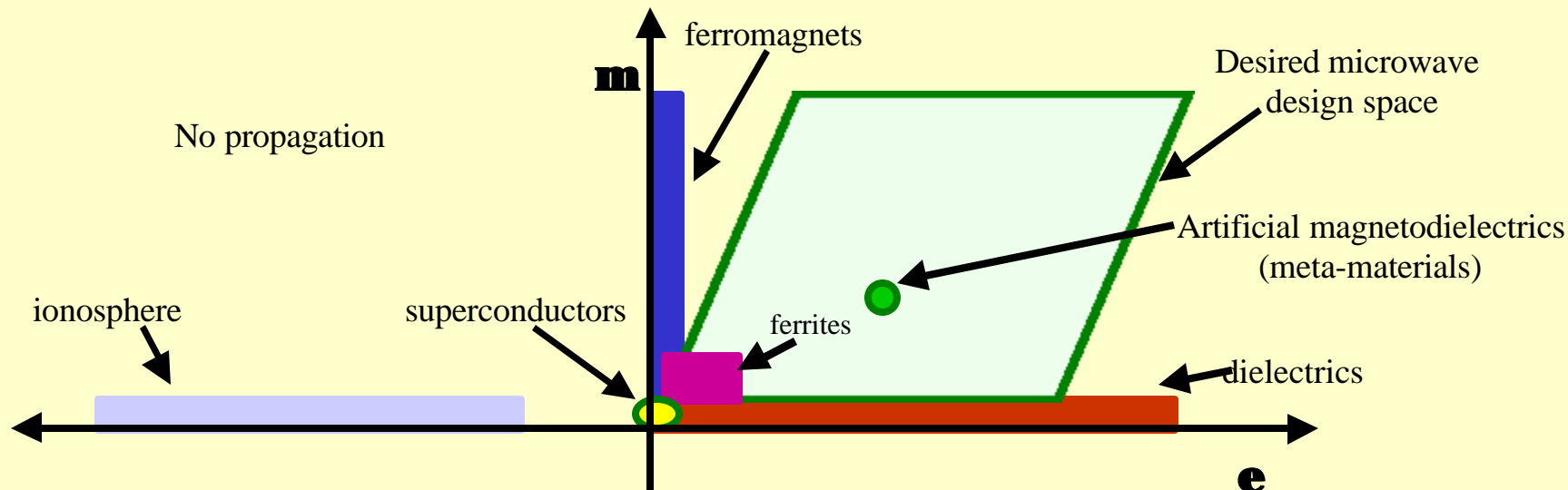
The Metamaterials Program



Metamaterials will deliver:

- low frequency (< 1 MHz) meta-materials with superior magnetic properties for power electronics, electric propulsion, and power generation
- high frequency (> 1 MHz) meta-materials with superior microwave and/or optical properties for communication, radar, and wireless power transfer applications.

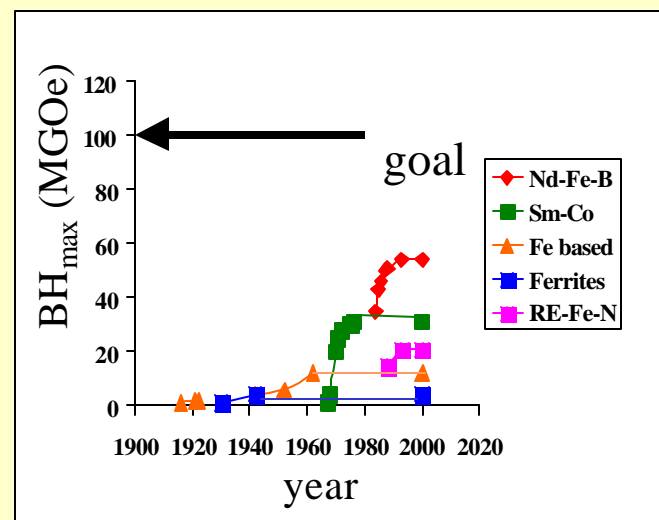
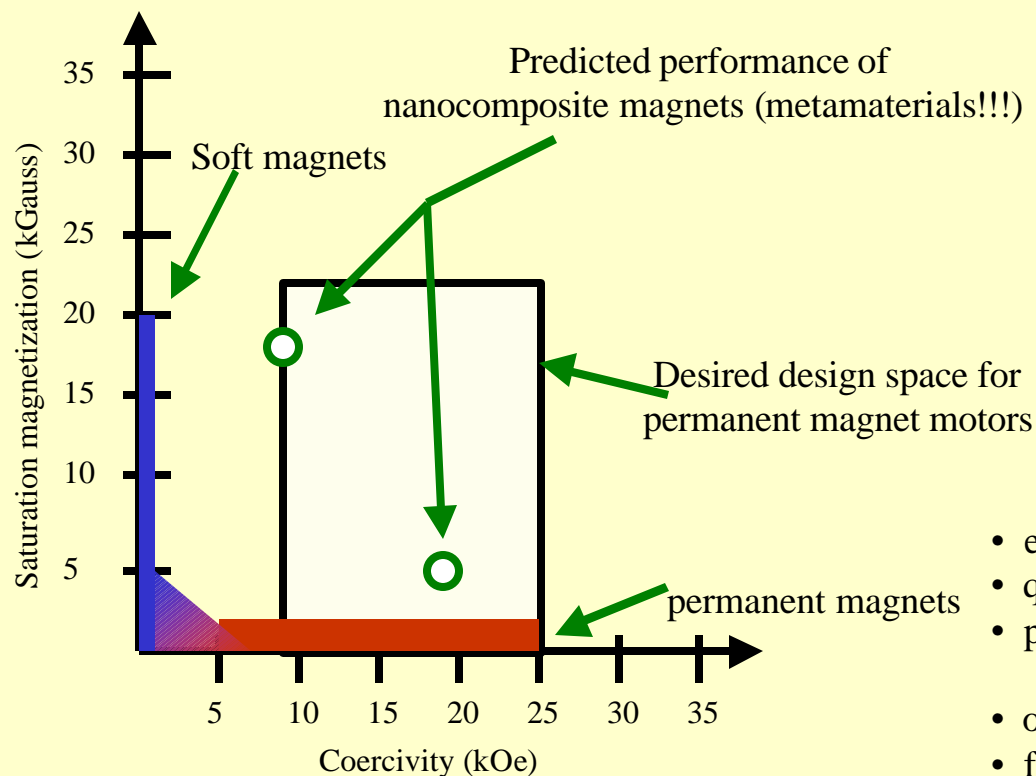
Metamaterials: Filling the void in the microwave design space



Left-handed media:
a whole new class of metamaterials!!!

- “negative Doppler shift,
- “backwards” Cherenkov radiation
- novel optical properties

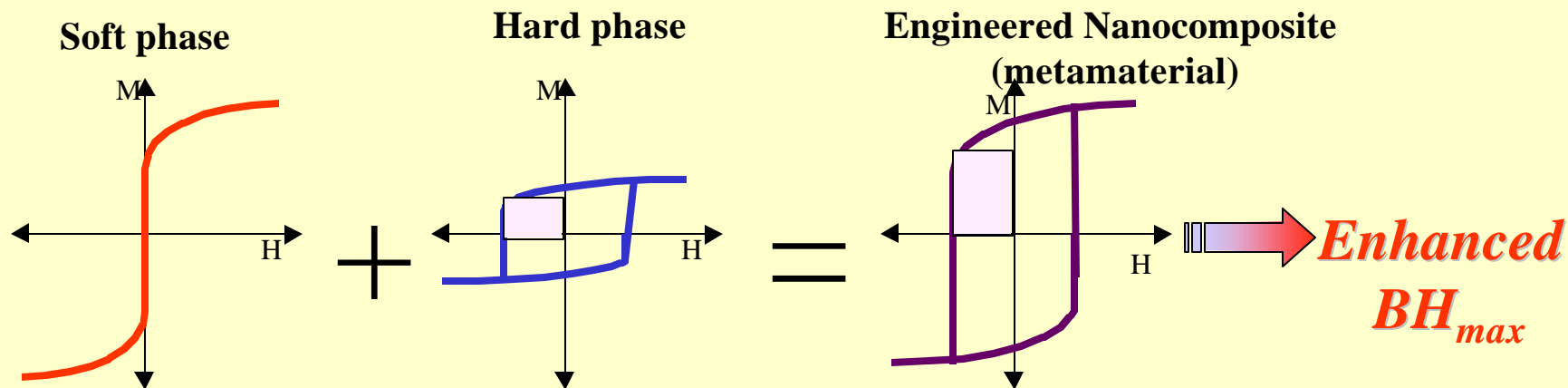
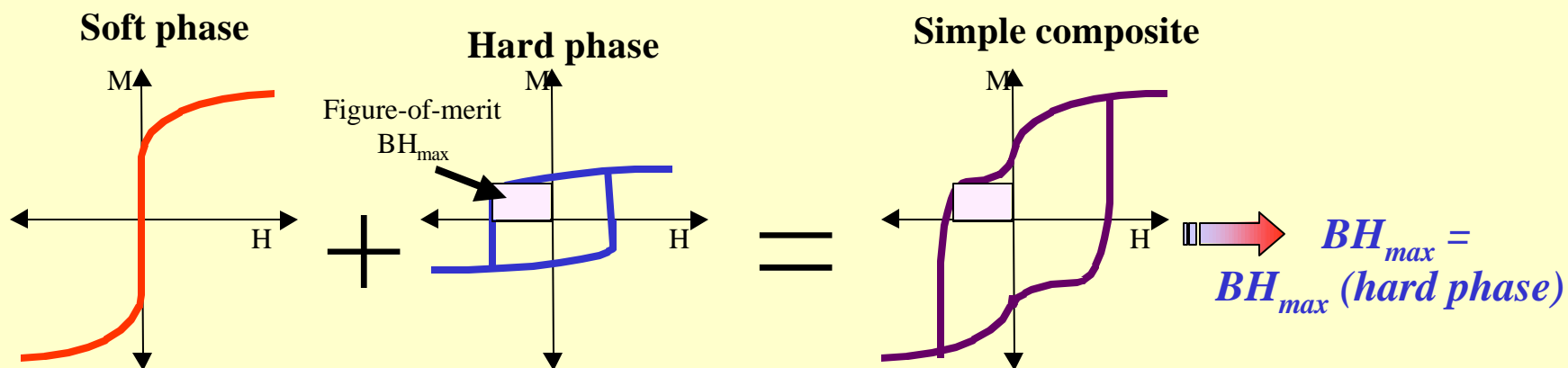
Magnetic nanocomposites (metamaterials) will enable electric drive/propulsion



Low cost (\$5-\$10/lb), high performance, permanent magnets will enable:

- electric drive (tanks, automobiles)
- quieter, more efficient motors (UUV propulsion)
- permanent magnet biased bearings (lubeless motors/generators)
- open MRI
- faster spindle motors for hard drives (hard drive capacity increases 60 %/ year)

The Metamaterials Approach to Magnetism: Nanocomposite Exchange Magnets



Theoretical challenges to understanding/predicting meta-material behavior:

- Develop more fully the theory of wave propagation in “left-handed” meta-materials
- Understand/model ferromagnetic exchange in 3-D magnetic nanocomposites
- Extend complex/effective media theory to novel 3-D meta-materials for high frequency applications

Materials development challenges:

- Develop algorithms for designing meta-materials given a desired response
- Identify, develop, and optimize processing schemes for fabricating meta-materials
- Develop and characterize new meta-materials with superior electromagnetic properties

Technology demonstration/transition:

- Demonstrate the superior/novel microwave or optical properties of meta-materials for a radar or telecommunications application
- Demonstrate the superior properties of bulk magnetic meta-materials in a power electronic, electric propulsion, or power generation application.

Meta-Materials “Criteria”

- What type of material do you propose to develop and demonstrate?
- Is it a meta-material?
 - Is it a composite? What are the constituent materials?
 - What guiding theory will provide the “blueprint” for engineering your meta-material?
 - What are the predicted superior properties?
 - Can it (or will it) be possible to make your meta-material?
- Is your meta-material novel and unique? i.e. has it already been done or is it being done now?
- What is (are) the military application(s) that have a need for your proposed “meta-material”?
- Do these applications fall within the general application areas listed in the BAA/PIP?
- What is the material figure-of-merit for these applications? What are the current limitations on this figure-of-merit? By how much will your meta-material exceed these current limitations?
- How will you test your meta-material?
- If successful, what new and or enhanced capabilities will your meta-material bring to the military applications you’ve identified?
- What prototype development efforts will demonstrate the significant advantage(s) of your metamaterial?